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ACTION: POL-3
INFO: AMB DCM ECON
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STATE 143913

JULY 19, 1973

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUWEL/AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE 4761
RUWEL/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 7367
RUWEL/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 7143
RUWEL/AMEMBASSY ISLA ABAD 4633
RUWEL/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 3392
RUWEL/AMEMBASSY LONDON 5423
RUWEL/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2321

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JULY 13,
1973:

Q. HAVE THE TALKS BETWEEN AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN AND MRS.
CHANDI ALREADY STARTED? AND IF SO, COULD YOU GIVE US A
RECAP OF WHAT HAPPENED AT THE FIRST SESSION?

A. WELL, THEY DID TALK YESTERDAY. THERE WAS A MEETING
BETWEEN AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN AND MRS. CHANDI.

WHILE I'M NOT GOING TO GET INTO ALL OF THE SPECIFICS
OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, THEY DID TALK ABOUT THE RUPEE QUES-
TION AND POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.

Q. THIS, THEN, MARKS THE START OF NEGOTIATIONS TO SETTLE
THE RUPEE QUESTION WITH THEM?

A. IT'S BEEN DISCUSSED, PROBABLY BEFORE WITH THE INDIANS
IN A GENERAL WAY, BUT I THINK IT WOULD BE FAIR TO SAY THAT
THIS MIGHT MARK THE BEGINNING OF A MORE FORMAL BEGINNING
TO A STUDY OF THE RUPEE QUESTION.

Q. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE AFGHAN SITUATION TODAY?

A. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN.
THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION IS UNDER STUDY.

Q. WELL, DOES THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION ARISE?

A. IT'S UNDER STUDY.

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Q. IS THAT BECAUSE THE SITUATION IS STILL UNCLEAR, OR
WHAT?



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A. THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION IS ONE ON WHICH NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN AS OF THIS TIME.

Q. ARE CONTACTS CONTINUING BETWEEN THE U.S. EMBASSY IN KABUL AND THE NEW REGIME?

A. WELL WE STILL HAVE OUR EMBASSY THERE. I AM SURE THAT THERE ARE SOME OF THE DAY-TO-DAY CONTACTS. FOR EXAMPLE, I AM AWARE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IN KABUL DID APPROACH THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS ON THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY "THE GOVERNMENT" WHICH ONE IS IT?

A. WELL, THE ONE THAT IS IN PLACE.

Q. THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT?

A. THE ONE THAT'S IN PLACE NOW.

Q. WAS THE UNITED STATES ONE OF THE GOVERNMENTS APPROACHED?

A. WELL, IT WAS THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, --

Q. IS THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN KABUL ASKING OTHER NATIONS TO MAKE SOME KIND OF POSITIVE STATEMENT THAT THEY RECOGNIZE THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN KABUL AS THE LEGAL GOVERNMENT -- IS THAT RIGHT?

A. YES.

Q. WHO IS DOING THE STUDYING IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT? IS IT THE OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ADVISOR?

A. WELL, IN MATTERS OF THIS KIND, IT WOULD INVOLVE VARIOUS PARTS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT. --

Q. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONTACT BETWEEN THE AMERICAN OFFICIALS AND THE KING, IN ITALY?

A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO.

Q. THE FOREIGN AID PROGRAM TO AFGHANISTAN -- HAS THAT BEEN CONTINUING DURING THE STUDY PERIOD?

A. YES.



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Q. WHAT WAS THE U.S. EMBASSY RESPONSE TO THIS APPROACH?

A. WELL, WE HAVEN'T RESPONDED.

GIVEN BELOW IS GUIDANCE GIVEN TO SPOKESMAN BUT NOT USED

Q. DID HE TELL HER WE WERE ACCEDING TO INDIA'S REQUEST TO END U.S. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS?

A. AS I SAID, WE DON'T COMMENT ON SPECIFICS OF OUR TALKS. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND I CAN SAY THAT THE INDIANS DURING 1972 REVIEWED EXISTING U.S. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS AND IT WAS AGREED THAT THOSE PREVIOUS PROJECTS WOULD BE GRADUALLY PHASED OUT. THAT IS WHERE THINGS STAND AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT.

Q. DID HE ALSO TALK ABOUT THE AID HOUSING COMPLEX?

A. YES BUT AS I HAVE ALREADY SAID, I DO NOT WANT TO GET INTO DETAILS. THESE ARE MATTERS OF CONTINUING DIALOGUE BETWEEN INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

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